

# Childism in Education (Multi-Lesson Course)

6+ hours.

## Description/Purpose

This course introduces educators to the new theory of childism, or, akin to feminism and anti-racism, empowering children by critiquing and transforming adultist norms and structures. Participants will explore how childism could be used to rethink teaching and education.

Presented and prepared by Drs. Tanu Biswas and John Wall for Conference to Restore Humanity! 2022.

## Part 1: What is Childism?

### Materials

- Reading: Pamphlet, ["Childism: An Introduction"](#)
- Video: [John Wall, "The Concept of Childism" \(14 mins\)](#)
- Optional additional reading: Wall, John. 2019. ["From Childhood Studies to Childism: Reconstructing the Scholarly and Social Imaginations,"](#) Children's Geographies, 17(6):1-15.

### Consider

What do you understand childism to be? In what ways you find it a useful concept or not? What questions, if any, you have about it?

## Part 2: Childism & Education

### Materials

- [Blog: Biswas, Tanu "Children's Civil Disobedience in the Minority World & its Potential for Re-imagining the Educational," CCYSC Blog](#)
- [Blog: Biswas, Tanu. 'Decolonial Childism': Nurturing Diversity for Intergenerational Sustainability.](#)
- [Article: Biswas, Tanu, 2021. "Letting Teach: Gen Z as Socio-Political Educators in an Overheated World." \*Frontiers in Political Science\* 3\(641609\): 1-11.](#)
- [Video: Tanu Biswas, "Childism: A Minor Dimension of Major Significance"](#)

### **Consider**

What is one way you think childism might usefully be applied to teaching or education?

## **Part 3: Combating Adultism**

### **Materials**

- Podcast: [Biswas and Wall, "Combating Adultism to Create a Flourishing Democracy w/ Dr. Tanu Biswas & Dr. John Wall," Human Restoration Project.](#)
- Video: [Barajas, Sebastian, Unearned advantages? Redefining privilege in light of childhood](#)
- Optional Reading: [Barajas, Sebastian, 2021. "Unearned Advantages? Redefining Privilege in Light of Childhood." \*Children's Geographies\* 19. "This article puts privilege theory in conversation with childhood studies in order to create a richer understanding of privilege."](#)

### **Consider**

Reflect on the ways you do (or do not) see adultism taking place in teaching and education.

## **Part 4: Change Into Action**

### **Materials**

Choose one or more of the following:

- Abebe, Tatek and Tanu Biswas, 2021, "Rights in Education: Outlines for a Decolonial, Childist Reimagination of the Future." *Fennia - International Journal of Geography* 199(1): 118-128).  
([https://www.childism.org/\\_files/ugd/8edd45\\_163d1472608f4a0d93d2d50fc8784faa.pdf](https://www.childism.org/_files/ugd/8edd45_163d1472608f4a0d93d2d50fc8784faa.pdf))
- Biswas, Tanu, 2021. "Who Needs Sensory Education?" *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, 1-16.  
([https://8edd4583-272f-402d-a88f-f13f889bc034.usrfiles.com/ugd/8edd45\\_19ba1cd54fb0468ca18a7b24e2b01fbb.pdf](https://8edd4583-272f-402d-a88f-f13f889bc034.usrfiles.com/ugd/8edd45_19ba1cd54fb0468ca18a7b24e2b01fbb.pdf))
- Franck, Olof. 2017. "Highlighting Ethics, Subjectivity and Democratic Participation in Sustainability Education: Challenges and Contributions." In *Ethical Literacies and Education for Sustainable Development: Young People, Subjectivity and Democratic Participation*, edited by Olof Franck and Christina Osbeck, 1-17. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

([https://www.childism.org/files/ugd/8edd45\\_3dd70e69ce5e4e26bc5b194b5790ded1.pdf](https://www.childism.org/files/ugd/8edd45_3dd70e69ce5e4e26bc5b194b5790ded1.pdf))

- Luna, Sara Michael, "Challenging Norms in Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum by Listening to Young Children: Pre-Service Teachers' Lessons in Phonological Awareness." *International Critical Childhood Policy Studies* (2021) 8(2):80-91.  
(<https://journals.sfu.ca/iccps/index.php/childhoods/article/view/151>)
  - Saal, Britta, 2020. "The Children's Polylogue - Doing Philosophy with Children in Intercultural Encounters," *Polylog - Journal for Intercultural Philosophizing* (2020), 1(7):55-69.  
([https://www.childism.org/files/ugd/8edd45\\_91282ebba034a3fbdf322bb4b3156a.pdf](https://www.childism.org/files/ugd/8edd45_91282ebba034a3fbdf322bb4b3156a.pdf)).
  - Wadsworth, Sarah. 2015. "The Year of the Child: Children's Literature, Childhood Studies, and the Turn to Childism." *American Literary History* 27(2):331-341.  
(<https://academic.oup.com/alh/article-abstract/27/2/331/216590?redirectedFrom=fulltext>)
  - Warming, Hanne, 2020. "Childism." In Dan Cook, ed., *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Children and Childhood Studies*. SAGE Publications.  
([https://www.childism.org/files/ugd/8edd45\\_c99989c285e84a1fb3a3476b26c53e0c.pdf](https://www.childism.org/files/ugd/8edd45_c99989c285e84a1fb3a3476b26c53e0c.pdf))
- Message #day-4-activities

### **Consider**

Your concluding activity for this course is to write a carefully crafted 300-500-word blog, citing parenthetical references to our course readings (e.g. Wall 2019, p. 1), on any aspect of childism in relation to education that you would like to explore.